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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 EAE-00 /010 W
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P R 240911Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7547
CINCPAC

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FOR: SECSTATE EA/PHL ONLY
USIA/IEA
CINCPAC - USIA ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: NA
SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS - MARCH 17-24

I. PSYCHOLOGICAL

HUMAN RIGHTS: HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH? - PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS EMPHASIS ELICITED A MEDIA BARRAGE EXCEPTIONAL FOR THE DEPTH OF ANALYSIS REPRESENTED.

JUAN T. GATBONTON, TIMES JOURNAL, WROTE:

".... IN THE THIRD WORLD, ALMOST ALL OF THE SUCCESSOR STATES TO THE WESTERN EMPIRES HAVE TRADED OFF FOR HOPES OF MATERIAL EQUALITY THEIR ANYWAY LARGELY THEORETICAL INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES...."
EXTENDING THE THESIS TO INCLUDE BRITISH SOCIALISM AND FRANCH AND ITALIAN EUROCOMMUNISM, GATBONTON CONCLUDED:
"BRZENZINSKI DOES THIS CHANGING MODD OF GLOBAL
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POLITICS AS COMPELLING THE UNITED STATES TO RETREAT BEHIND "CAPITALISM IN ONE COUNTRY." THOUGH THIS OVERSTATES THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY'S EVER AGAIN RESPONDING TO A SINGLE MODEL, IT POINTS TO THE PITFALLS THAT BESET PRESIDENT CARTER'S STYLE OF CONDUCTING FOREIGN POLICY."
NOTING U.S. DISPUTES WITH THE USSR, ARGENTINA,

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URUGUAY, ETHIOPIA, AND UGANDA OVER HUMAN RIGHTS, NESTOR MATA WRITES IN THE EXPRESS:

"SUCH MORALIZING MAY COME NATURALLY TO A MAN LIKE JIMMY CARTER, A BAPTIST AND A RELIGIOUS CRUSADER...

"IN THIS FOURTH QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTRY, WHEN DIPLOMACY LOOMS AS THE MAIN, PERHAPS THE ONLY INSTRUMENT WHICH WILL BUY, FOR MEN AND NATIONS, THEIR DREAMS OF PEACE AND PROGRESS, A QUIZOTIC FOREIGN POLICY SEEMS ALL TOO UNREALISTIC AND UNPRODUCTIVE..."

ANOTHER COLUMN THAT DETAILED THE REVERSALS IN RELATIONS WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES WAS FRANCISCO DELEON'S TIMES JOURNAL. DE LEON CONCLUDED:

"THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS SUCCEEDED IN 'TITILLATING' THE WORLD WITH THE ISSUE. HIS CRUSADE IS SUCCEEDING TO SWEEP AWAY MEMORIES OF WATERGATE AND THE COSTLY U.S. BLUNDERS IN VIETNAM. THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMACY HAS GIVEN WASHINGTON A FRESH MORAL OUTLOOK. BUT... IF CARTER PUSHES HIS HUMAN RIGHTS CRUSADE TOO FAR IT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BOOMERANG AGAINST HIS LEADERSHIP AND HIS COUNTRY."

IN AN EDITORIAL THE BULLETIN TODAY APPLAUDED THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, BUT WARNED THAT:

"WHAT IS REPULSIVE TO THE U.S. MAY BE A MATTER OF RIGHT AND SURVIVAL TO ANOTHER."

"THE CRUZ OF THE MATTER, WE BELIEVE, LIES NOT SO JUCH IN THE INFRACTION OF SOME HUMAN RIGHTS, AS THIS CAN HAPPEN IN THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL EVOLUTION AND EVEN IN THE U.S. ITSELF. IT LIEAS IN THE UNABASHED AND TOTAL SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN VALUES AND LIBERTIES. A FEW

COUNTRIES, SADLY, ARE STILL GUILTY OF THIS."

THE TIMES JOURNAL'S ERNESTO GRANDA FOCUSED ON THE PRESENCE OF WHITE AMERICAN MERCENARIES IN RHODESIA, AND SAID THAT WHILE "NO NOBLE MAN CAN QUARREL WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S OBSESSION...IT SEEMS MR. CARTER'S FIRST TASK IS TO TEACH HIS OWN PEOPLE THE FULL MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

II. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

A. SAZLOFF-BROWN - WHILE MANILA WAS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH ITS ANNUAL WEEK-LONG TAGAYTAY SEMINAR FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (REPORT TO FOLLOW), CEBU HAD EXCLUSIVE USE OF AMSPECS J. ZASLOFF AND M. BROWN. IN THEIR PROGRAM, CO-SPONSORED BY THE INTEGRATED BARS OF CEBU CITY AND CEBU PROVINCE, Z&B DISCUSSED U.S. POLICY IN EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA WITH A GROUP OF 55 OF CEBU'S LEADING ATTORNEYS, EDUCATORS, BUSINESSMEN AND POLITICIANS. THE PROGRAM ELICITED VERY POSITIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS AND A STORY IN THE

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LOCAL PAPER, THE FREEMAN, WHICH FOCUSED OF Z&B'S
POSITIVE ANALYSIS OF THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 EAE-00 /010 W
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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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B. CABINET PAMPHLET - A LOCALLY PRODUCED BOOKLET DESCRIBING THE MEMBERS OF THE NEW CABINET AND SENIOR ADVISORS WAS DISTRIBUTED TO 7000 ARS MEMBERS THIS WEEK, IN HOPES OF FURTHER BUILDING CONFIDENCE IN A YET INCOMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD ADMINISTRATION.

C. SUGAR STORY - THE PHILIPPINES' TWO LARGEST PAPERS, BULLETING AND EXPRESS, GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO AN IPS WRITTEN, AND LOCALLY REFINED, SUGAR PIECE. THE ARTICLE EMPHASIZED THAT A SUGAR QUOTA IS BUT ONE OF MANY OPTIONS BEING STUDIED. SO FAR LOCAL COVERAGE HAS BEEN FACTUAL AND UNEMOTIONAL; HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS POTENTIALLY VERY IMPORTANT SINCE SUGAR ACCOUNTS FOR 35 PERCENT OF R.P. EXPORTS.

D. JAZZ GUITAR CONCERT - BARNEY KESSEL'S JAZZ CONCERT IN THE 450-SEAT CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES LITTLE THEATER WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY AN SRO AUDIENCE. MANY WERE TURNED AWAY AT THE TICKET WINDOW BUT REMAINED TO LISTEN TO THE PIPED-IN MUSIC IN THE LOBBY. BARNEY IS A SUPERB AND HOMESPUN PHILOSOPHER WHO ESTBLISHES EASY RAPPORT WITH HIS AUDIENCES, AS EVIDENCED DURING MORNING WORKSHOP AND AT THE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.
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Message Attributes

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